

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, and 14-19 are now pending in the application, with claims 1, 4, 7 and 19 being the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 7 and 9 are allowed and that claims 4, 5, 10, 11, and 19 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have done so above by amending claim 4 to include all of the limitations of independent claim 1 and by amending claim 19 to include all of the limitations of independent claim 1 and intervening claim 18.

Accordingly, claims 4, 5, 10, 11, and 19 are believed to be allowable.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,280,273 (Goldstein); and claims 3 and 15-18 were rejected under § 103(a) over Goldstein in view of U.S. Patent 5,729,207 (Yamano). These essentially are the same rejections that were made in the previous Office Action.

In Applicants' Response filed March 29, 2004, Applicants made a number of specific points as to why the foregoing prior art rejections are believed to be improper. Most of such points have not been addressed in the current Office Action. For example, the only response with respect to Applicants' remarks in connection with independent claim 1 appears to have been the addition of a single sentence, stating, "It is seen that the cartridge 10 may be operated independently of a housing assembly." This statement does not address any of the main points of distinction raised in Applicants' previous Response.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that those points be addressed, in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 707.07(f), which provides:

Where the applicant traverses any rejection, the Examiner should, if he or she repeats the rejection, take note of the applicant's argument and answer the substance of it.

After all of the points laid out in the previous Response are carefully considered, Applicants are confident that all of the pending claims will be found to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an indication to that effect is respectfully requested.

However, after reconsidering such points, if the Examiner still has any concerns regarding the allowability of any of the pending claims, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' attorney in order to schedule a telephonic interview to discuss any such concerns prior to issuing the next Office Action in this case.

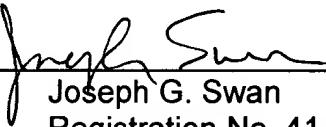
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Respectfully submitted,

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